



M. L

Gc  
929.2  
N822h  
1412826

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01430 7497







H -

---

T H E      H I S T O R Y

OF

Mary C. Norton

and

Her Kinfolk

---

F. C. Hutchinson



C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	
CHAPTER I	
TWENTY GENERATIONS OF NORTONS . . . . .	1
CHAPTER II	
THE HISTORY OF THE NORTONS FROM NICHOLAS TO BURROUGHS, JR. . . . . . . . .	6
LIST OF BOOKS ON THE NORTON HISTORY . . .	15
CHAPTER III	
BURROUGHS NORTON JR. AND HIS FAMILY . . .	16

**1412826**

Barcode 8400 4-7-67 3547 P.C. 3661



## INTRODUCTION

The following is being written for the benefit of the younger generation who did not have the privilege of knowing Mary Catherine Norton-Ayer who was my Mother's Mother and my Grandma Ayer, affectionately known by many as Aunt Mary.

I was very fortunate, for Grandma Ayer lived with us in Calistoga, Napa and Berkeley, on and off from about the time my father died in 1904 until her death on May 6, 1921, and I was always thrilled by her stories of early life in these United States, including the many ways people came to California in the gold rush days. She first arrived in California via the Isthmus of Panama, returned by the Nicaragua route and came back to California by train in the '70s.

One afternoon when we were living at 2611 Russell Street in Berkeley, I sat down with Grandma and took notes on the story of her early life with fifteen brothers and sisters.

Grandma Ayer was always cheerful and healthy and made a trip East nearly every year to visit relatives - she had them all over the Middle West. She was married during the Civil War and was an active member of the Women's Relief Corps of the G.A.R.

She was a great admirer of Roosevelt - Toddy, that is - always voted the Republican ticket, told a good story and had a wonderful twinkle in her eye.

Grandma had a wonderful memory and a full life and loved people. She was always very active, and died of a heart attack at Calistoga, California, while she was dressing to go out for dinner. She had not been sick and the sands of time ran out without giving her any warning.



The following chapters were compiled from my notes and the files of Arie Norton, who had made quite a study of the Nortons prior to his death in 1944.

Fred C. Hutchinson  
2715 Regent Street  
Berkeley 5, California



## C H A P T E R    I

### TWENTY GENERATIONS OF NORTONS

#### THE NORTON NAME

The name Norton came from the town of North-town in Yorkshire, England. It is believed that the name was originally brought to England by Le Signeur de Norville (North-town) who came with William the Conqueror. The ancient seat of the Norton family was in Bedfordshire, England.

#### THE NORTON COAT OF ARMS

I have been unable to find a good description of the Norton Coat of Arms, but I was able to obtain two accounts of what purports to be the Coat of Arms, and a picture of one. Since the two do not agree, I will set forth both of them with the hope that I will receive additional information from someone who has more definite information.

This account came from Edith Norton, the daughter of Calvin B. Norton:

#### EXPLANATION OF NORTON COAT OF ARMS

The crest is a Griffin, supposed to show some strange event and being full grown, can never be taken alive. This sets forth the valor of a soldier.

The Fret is a true lovers knot.

The Bar running diagonally across the shield represents the belt of the knight or warrior. The ornamentation of this Bar is taken from the fur of a small beast called Varus, whose back was blue gray and stomach white.

It formed the lining of a cloak first used by an ancestor fighting in Hungary. When his army fled, he pulled out the lining and raised it



as an ensign - his men, seeing and recognizing his colors, blue and white, and knowing his courage, returned and defeated the enemy.

Rod, denotes martial boldness, hardihood, valor and magnanimity - most noble of all colors;

Gold, prowess and virtue;

Silver, purity, innocence, chastity, truth, justice and humanity.

Silver and gold, signifies the bearer was a valiant Christian soldier.

Silver with red, bold and resolutely honest,

Silver and blue, courteous and discreet.

The motto on the scroll under the Coat of Arms should be in red and reads:

"Confide recte gons"

This account was among the papers of Arie Norton, and reads as follows:

The Coat of Arms was given to the Norton family at the time of the "War of the Roses" when a Norton saved a King's life on the battlefield with three thrusts of the sword. This is shown on his shield. The rampant lion shows the King was on the battlefield; the helmet with the closed visor means battlefield; the door with the olive branch shows that the family loved peace and was loyal to the Crown at the time.

Madam Lillian Nordica, daughter of Edwin Norton, descendant of Nicholas Norton of Martha's Vineyard, when the guest of Lord and Lady Warwick, was presented with a copy of this Coat of Arms. She gave her cousin Henry Franklin Norton a ring on which was cut out this Coat of Arms. In July, 1925, when Franklin visited Warwick Castle, the guide who was an authority on heraldry, upon seeing the ring, proved by records then available that it was the authentic Coat of Arms given to an ancestor of Nicholas Norton.



## THE NORTON FAMILY TREE

The Ancestors of Mary C. Norton-Ayer:

- I. Le Signor de Norville came to England with William the Conqueror in 1066.
- II. Le Signor de Norville married into the House of Barr.
- III. Le Signor de Norville married into the House of Dalbermonte.
- IV. Le Signor de Norville married into the House of Raby.
- V. Le Signor de Norville married into the family of Le Signor Daupre de Court.
- VI. Le Signor de Norville (Alias Norton) married the daughter of Sir John Hadslope.
- VII. Sir John Norton, married Maud de Gray who was the daughter of Lord Grey de Ruthyn. She was a descendant of Alfred the Great.
- VIII. John Norton.
- IX. John Norton.
- X. Thomas Norton.
- XI. Richard Norton.
- XII. William Norton, born about 1535.
- XIII. Nicholas Norton, born 1562 - died 1616.
- XIV. Nicholas Norton, Jr., born 1610 - died 1690. Married Elizabeth. They had three children: Isaac, Joseph and Benjamin.



NOTICE: This material may be protected by  
copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code)

XV. Benjamin Norton was born 1659 and died 1733. He married Hannah, and I do not know how many children they had, but I do know of Matthew and Nicholas.

XVI. Nicholas Norton was born 1697 - died 1779. Married Martha Dagget in 1709. They had three children: Joseph, Isaac and Jabez.

XVII. Jabez Norton was born October 16, 1714 - died 1785. He married Elizabeth Allen on February 9, 1736 and they had a son named Elijah.

XVIII. Elijah Norton, born February 16, 1739 - died November 6, 1816. He married Freelove Burroughs and had one child by her named Burroughs. After her death, he married Hanna West and had eleven children by her.

XIX. Burroughs Norton, Sr., born 1769. Married Betsy Bullard, and they had nine children as follows: Hardin, Burroughs, Jr., Elijah, Joseph, Waldo, Margaret, Melissa, Elizabeth and Joel.

XX. Burroughs Norton, Jr. was born in Worcester, Mass. on June 29, 1800 and died October 10, 1891. He married Margaret Weber on May 29, 1822. She was born February 19, 1804 and died March 4, 1865. They had sixteen children as follows: Joseph, Melissa, Margaret, Mary Charlotte, John, Helen, George, William, Henry, Burroughs III, Jacob, Mary Catherine, James, Rcelia, Alphous and Adelbert.

XXI. Mary C. Norton was born February 7, 1840 and died May 6, 1921. She married Charles Alvin Ayer on March 9, 1863 and they had two children: Charles Fred, and Irma Gertrude.

XXII. Irma G. Ayer was born on February 11, 1865 and married Thomas B. Hutchinson on July 8, 1890 and they had four children: Thomas Harold, Fred Clarence, Wendell Ayer and Irma Katherine.

yr. 6000m qd yem tsistem ait :3017  
(0003 .2.0 T1 aitiT) wsl Idrayqeo

XXIII. Fred G. Hutchinson was born on July 18, 1894 and married Dorothy A. Meyer on June 24, 1926 and they have two children, Fred and Tom.



## C H A P T E R    II

### THE HISTORY OF THE NORTONS FROM NICHOLAS TO BURROUGHS, JR.

Nicholas Norton, Jr. (XIV) who was born in 1610 is the first Norton ancestor that we know very much about. He came to America in 1634 with his two brothers and was one of the original settlers on Martha's Vineyard. I believe he married after arriving in America. His wife's name was Elizabeth, and they had three children.

In 1676 when Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard was divided into forty lots, Nicholas Norton and his three sons: Isaac, Joseph and Benjamin, were among those receiving lots. Isaac was born in 1641 and died in 1723. Joseph was born in 1651 and died in 1741.

Benjamin Norton (XV), our ancestor, who was the third son of Nicholas and Elizabeth, was born in 1659. He married a young lady named Hannah, and I do not know how many children they had, but a son Matthew was born in 1697 and died in 1779, and Nicholas, our ancestor was born in 1687.

#### MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Ever since I started looking into the Norton history the name Martha's Vineyard has intrigued me. Never having been near the New England Coast, I was unable to tell just what or where Martha's Vineyard is, so for the benefit of those who would like to know, I have obtained a map and have found the following:

Martha's Vineyard is the largest island on the southeastern coast of Massachusetts. It is twenty miles long and nine miles wide and but a few feet above the sea level in the eastern part,



which is known as the Plains, one of the largest tracts of level ground in New England. Martha's Vineyard together with several other islands, comprise Dukes County of Massachusetts.

The first Europeans to visit Martha's Vineyard were the Northmen, who landed about the year 1000, naming it Vineland. The first one to leave any account of the Island was Bartholomew Gosnold of Falmouth, England. He was the first Englishman to sail directly to the American Coast. This was in 1602. He landed on a Cape which he named Cape Cod, from the abundance of cod fish found there, and then he landed on a large island and after exploring it and finding such luxuriant grape vines, he named the island Martha's Vineyard in honor of his mother whose name was Martha.

Now to get back to the Nortons. Here we have another Nicholas Norton (XVI), the son of Benjamin and Hannah. He was born in 1687 and in 1709 he married Martha Daggot. They had three children, Joseph, Isaac and Jabez who was Grandma's ancestor.

#### EMPEROR NORTON

Here seems to be an appropriate place to shake the family tree and see if we can shake out a Joshua.

We have found two Elijahs and Joseph, Jacob and Isaac, but no Joshua. Perhaps it is just as well because a Joshua Norton showed up in California during the Gold Rush and later became "Norton I, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico".

Joshua Norton had not been an emperor when he arrived in San Francisco in 1849. He came bankrupt from South Africa, and like all was hoping to make a fortune in the Gold fields but instead of digging for gold he found it more profitable to go into business and was prospering as a trader. He built a rice mill and in 1852 he and his partner had cornered the rice market.



They were about to turn their rice into millions when a procession of ships passed through the Golden Gate all loaded with rice. The loss of his contemplated fortune resulted in Norton losing his mind. He was next heard of in 1859 as "Emperor Norton" and for the next twenty-one years the City of San Francisco humored him. Restaurants fed him, hotels accommodated him and trains and steamship lines were ever at his service. He issued his own currency in the form of a promissory note for fifty cents and they were honored everywhere.

He wore a tailor-made uniform of blue with gold braid, one he designed himself, that heightened, to a striking degree his resemblance to Napoleon.

He had two dogs, Bummer and Lazarus, who were always with him.

In 1880, he sank to the sidewalk in front of the St. Mary's church on the corner of Grant Avenue and California and San Francisco gave him a royal funeral and everyone turned out in honor of its first and only Emperor.

Having disposed of Joshua, it's about time to get back to Jabez.

Jabez Norton (XVII) was born October 16, 1714, and married Elizabeth Allen on February 9, 1736. I do not know how many children they had but his son Elijah Norton was born on February 16, 1739 at Martha's Vineyard. In about 1762 Jabez Norton moved to Rochester, Mass. and was living there in 1768. He died in 1785.

Elijah Norton (XVIII) might be called our Revolutionary ancestor because he served as a private in the sea coast defense on Martha's Vineyard under Captain Benjamin Smith from June 1, 1776 to November 21, 1776. The Revolutionary record of



Elijah Norton may be found in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Boston, Mass. in the Revolutionary War Records. See National numbers 29197 - 141390, verified by National number 179543.

Elijah was a sea captain for about twenty years, and in 1768 he moved to Dartmouth, Mass. where he married Freeloive Burroughs on December 8, 1768. At this time Elijah was 29 and his young bride 18 or 19. Their first and only child, Burroughs, was born in 1769. The young bride must have died shortly thereafter, for she was only 20 when she died. After her death, Elijah may have taken his small son to live with the boy's grandfather who at that time was living in Rochester, Mass., for we find that Elijah fought in the Revolutionary War on Martha's Vineyard from June 1, 1776 to November 21, 1776, as a member of the sea coast defense.

In 1777 or 1778 Elijah was married a second time to a Miss Hanna West and was living in New Braintree, Mass. on a farm in 1779. He had eleven children by his second wife.

Many of the records that I have found stated that Burroughs Norton, the son of Elijah and Freeloive Norton, was Grandma Ayer's father and for that reason set forth the birth and death dates and some information about Burroughs eleven step-brothers and sisters. However, this Burroughs was Grandma Ayer's Grandfather, the father of the Burroughs Norton, Jr. who married Margaret Weber.

Since I have all this fine information about Hanna West Norton's eleven children, I might just as well preserve it.



Elijah's children by Hanna West-Norton:

	BIRTH	DEATH
Zadock	February 1778	1850
Nabby	May 9, 1780	October 17, 1808
Elijah	May 9, 1782	April 2, 1839
Abiather	December 13, 1784	
Hannah	December 10, 1786	September 9, 1815
Melintha	September 24, 1788	1789
Allen	September 2, 1790	March 31, 1864
Fletcher	August 7, 1792	
Fletcher West	July 18, 1794	
Jarvis	September 1796	
Melintha	July 2, 1800	July 14, 1800

ICHABOD NORTON

Here is the proper time to dig up Ichabod, or should I say that when I again shook the family tree, out fell Ichabod. In the first place, I like the name, and in 1892 or thereabouts, the Nortons of the United States were all expecting to inherit some of Ichabod's millions. On January 5, 1892, Eathan Norton, a nephew of Burroughs Norton, Jr. wrote a letter to his brother which reads, in part as follows:

Greeley, Colorado  
January 5, 1892

Dear Brother and Family:

Last August I read a piece in one of the Denver papers, headed, "Got a Fortune". It stated that two ladies living in Ohio had got \$75,000 each from the estate of one Ichabod Norton, who lived and died on the Island of Martha's Vineyard in Mass. The thought struck me that he might be one of our ancestors. I wrote to cousin Homer Norton (Uncle Elijah's son); he writes me a long letter and gives me a history of the family as far back as our Great Grandfather; he says there is no doubt that we are of the same family of Nortons



as the one spoken of in the paper. Cousin Homer says for me to investigate it, and he would do the same, so I began. I will give you what Cous. n Homer gave me.

First our Grandfather's name was Burroughs, his father's (our Great Grandfather) name was Elijah; that is as far as he can go; now by our investigation we find that this Elijah was the son of Ebenezer Norton, the brother of Ichabod Norton, the one who put in this claim under the claims of the French Spoilation Claims of which the last Congress has made appropriations to pay them off.

Betsy Davis who lives in Ill., says her Grandfather was Elijah, son of Ebenezer, a brother of Ichabod. I find that Ichabod Norton who was a bachelor, was the youngest son of Peter Norton. He died some forty years ago and was eighty years old; now what do you think of this? If we do anything it must be done quickly.

Now the paper stated there was \$3,000,000 to be divided among forty heirs, that would be a little over \$75,000 each. Now as father's share would be \$75,000 if he were alive, now there are seven of us which would be over \$10,000 each, is not that worth working for?

I remain as ever your loving brother,

E. A. Norton

Now what was this all about and who was Ichabod? Perhaps the easiest way to explain it is that because Burroughs Norton's Grandfather's name was Elijah, everyone assumed he was the same Elijah who was related to Ichabod. But such was not the case. Ichabod's Great Grandfather was Jabez, the brother of Joseph, both sons of Nicholas Norton who married Martha Dagget.



Ichabod was the youngest son of Major Peter Norton of Martha's Vineyard, born December 17, 1761 and died June 10, 1848. He lived on the family estate at Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard with his two sisters, Miss Lydia and Miss Martha. A brother, Andrew, was captured by the British during the Revolutionary War and was killed trying to escape.

Another brother, Ebenezer, married and raised a family, one child being named Elijah.

Major Peter Norton, Ichabod's father, was the son of Ebenezer and Deborah Norton and the grandson of Joseph, the brother of Jabez.

Ichabod never married but was a great money lender and was often called the "Bank of Edgartown". He amassed a great fortune of \$52,000 and as fate would have it, was blessed with fifty-two heirs.

A few years before his death, Uncle Ichabod told his relatives that if any of them wished to have their share of his estate before his death they could have it whenever they wished by paying him 12½% for cash. In this way he collected over \$3,000 on his own estate. When Ichabod died many of his heirs who had cashed in on their share thought that they could come in again for more. Here is the epitaph that one of the disappointed heirs wrote for Ichabod's headstone:

Here lies old Twelve-and-a-Half Per Cent,  
The more he had the less he spent,  
The more he had the more he craved.  
Oh Lord, can Ichabod be saved.

However, Uncle Ichabod was ahead of them. He not only had his own coffin ready, but a monument with a fine inscription. A memorial service was held for him at Farmington, Maine, and one of the



attendants wrote to a relative: "The devil never looked on a happier set of mourners".

It was not until many years after his death that the French Government paid into the U. S. Treasury \$80,000,000 for some ships that were destroyed by the French, probably during the French and Indian Wars. Some of Ichabod's ships had been destroyed and his share of the \$80,000,000 amounted to a round \$3,000,000. However, none of the Burroughs Nortons ever shared in the fortune, because Ichabod's Elijah was hanging from one branch of the family tree while Burroughs' Elijah was hanging from another.

Now let us go back to Mary's Ancestors -

Burroughs Norton, Sr. (XIX) was born in 1769, probably at Dartmouth, Mass. I have been unable to find very much about him because in many of the Historys of the Norton family Burroughs Sr. and his family were left out. This occurred because his son, Burroughs Jr., was confused with him.

In many reports it was stated that Burroughs, the only son of Elijah and Freeloove Burroughs, was the father of Mary C. Ayer and her fifteen brothers and sisters. This, of course, was not true. Burroughs Norton, Sr., was married to Belsy Bullard in either Worcester or New Braintree, Mass. and they had nine children, as follows:

1. Hardin - had a son named George.
2. Burroughs Jr. - who married Margaret Weber.
3. Elijah - who lives in Iowa and had a son named Homer Norton.
4. Joseph
5. Waldo
6. Margaret
7. Melissa
8. Elizabeth
9. Joel - married Mary Bloomfieds and they had five children:



1. William who was killed in the Civil War.
2. Sarah who married Chester Lowe.
3. Frank.
4. Mary died while young.
5. Joseph Waldo, born in Waupin in 1847, married Fannie Norris and died in 1914.

Burroughs Norton, Jr. (XX) was born in Worcester, Mass. on June 29, 1800 and died October 10, 1891. He married Margaret Weber at her father's hotel on the banks of Saratoga Lake on May 29, 1822. She was born February 19, 1804 and died March 4, 1865. They had sixteen children:

1. Joseph, born May 20, 1823 - died February, 1873.
2. Melissa A., born September 1, 1824 - died September, 1916.
3. Margaret E., born February 12, 1826 - died March 4, 1865.
4. Mary Charlotte, born August 19, 1827 - died December 3, 1831.
5. John A., born May 13, 1829 - died \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Helen, born September 9, 1830 - died \_\_\_\_\_.
7. George Weber, born November 29, 1831 - died \_\_\_\_\_.
8. William C., born July 14, 1833 - died February 27, 1846.
9. Henry, born December 1, 1834 - died July 5, 1852.
10. Burroughs III, born September 5, 1836 - died April, 1840.
11. Jacob Weber, born January 25, 1838 - died January, 1919.
12. Mary Catherine, born February 7, 1840 - died May 6, 1921.
13. James Burroughs, born July 16, 1841 - died October 16, 1887.
14. Sarah Rocelia, born December 10, 1843 - died December 12, 1944.
15. Alphous F., born August 5, 1846 - died August 25, 1852.
16. Edward Adelbert, born May 9, 1848 - died June, 1891.

The story of Mary C. Norton is told in the next chapter.

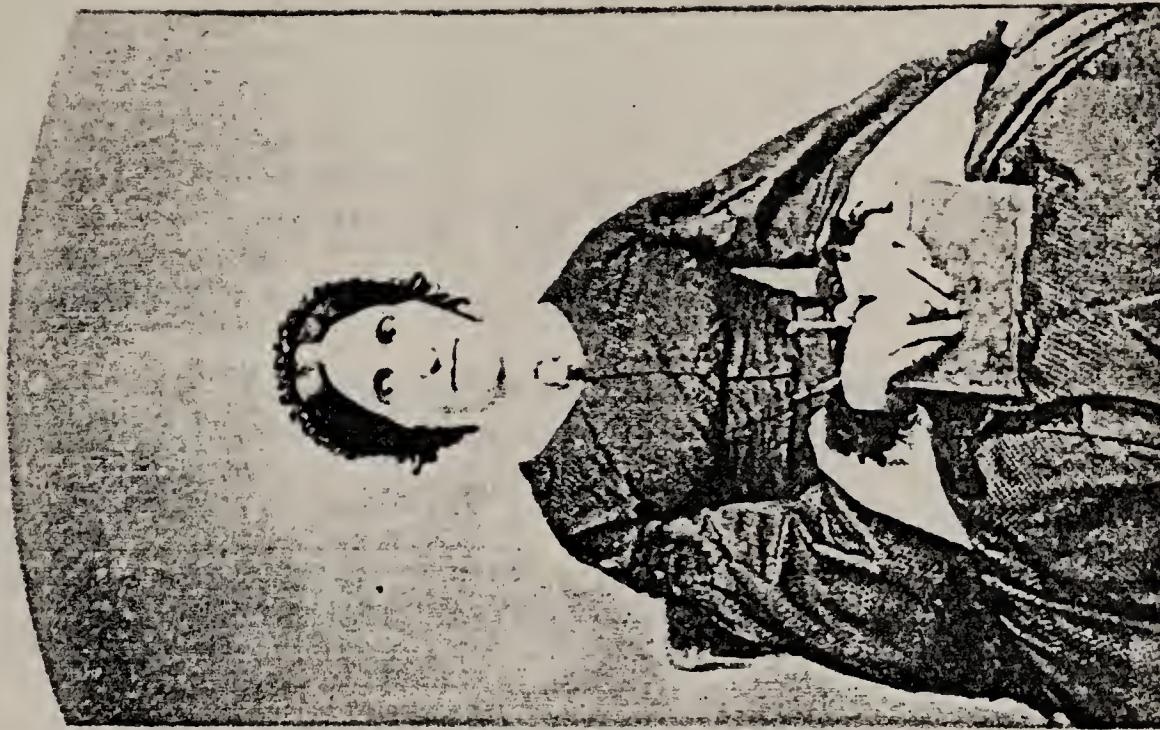


## LIST OF BOOKS ON THE NORTON HISTORY

1. Some descendants of John Norton of Branford, 1622-1709, with notes and dates of other emigrant Nortons.  
By Walter Whittlesey Norton, 1909.  
Lakeville, Conn. The Journal Press.  
N. Y. Library Classification A.P.V.
2. History of Martha's Vineyard, Mass.  
By Charles Ed Banks, M.D. in three volumes.
3. Martha's Vineyard.  
By Henry Franklin Norton.  
The Pyne Printery, Hartford, Conn., 1923.
4. A Geneology of the Norton Family.  
This book - author unknown - was in the Geneology Room of the New York Public Library.
5. Munsell's American Ancestry.  
Volume X, Page 88.
6. Massachusetts Bay Colony.  
Volume IV, Part 1.
7. Pope's Pioneers of Massachusetts.  
Page 332.
8. History of Weymouth.  
Page 263.



MARGARETTE WEBER-NORTON



BURROUGHS NORTON



NOTICE: This material may be protected by  
copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code)

20.2.01 (100-11) (W) (L) (M)  
POLICE: 1993 MARCH 20

## C H A P T E R III

### BURROUGHS NORTON JR. AND HIS FAMILY

George Washington died on December 14, 1799 and at the time of his death John Adams was President. Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson were members of his cabinet. The year 1800 was the beginning of a new era in the History of the United States. This was the year that Burroughs Norton, Jr. was born on June 29th in Worcester, Mass.

You will recall that John Adams was the second President of the United States serving during the years 1797 to 1800 and that his son John Quincy Adams was the sixth President serving during the years 1825 to 1828.

It is interesting to note that John Quincy Adams' mother was Abigail Smith who was the daughter of Rev. William Smith and Elizabeth Quincy, and that Elizabeth Quincy was the daughter of Col. John Quincy and Elizabeth Norton.

Now this Elizabeth Norton, who was John Quincy Adams' great grandmother, was a direct descendant from Sir John Norton who married Maude de Grey.

Burroughs Norton, Jr. was also a direct descendant from Sir John Norton and Maude de Grey who are referred to in Chapter I as the VII Generation.

He was one of nine, having five brothers, Hardin, Elijah, Joseph, Waldo and Joel, and three sisters, Margaret, Melissa and Elizabeth.

When he was six years old the family moved to Herkimer, located in the Mohawk Valley in New York State. This valley was made famous by many historic novels, such as "Drums Along The Mohawk". The City of Herkimer was named after General Nichols Herkimer who was one of the wealthy Squires of the valley who joined with the Americans



and was the hero of the Battle of Oriskany, where he was fatally injured on August 6, 1777.

As a small boy Burroughs learned the tanning trade and in 1822 he was the owner of his own Tannery in Herkimer

He became acquainted with Margaret Weber whose father Michael Weber operated a Hotel on the Banks of Saratoga Lake in New York.

The Weber family originally came from Germany and lived for a time in New Jersey and then moved to the Mohawk Valley. Margaret's grandfather was killed by Indians in 1779, however, her grandmother escaped with her five children.

He fell in love with Margaret Weber, who was one of fifteen children, and having been born on February 19, 1804, was eighteen years old. They were married at her father's Hotel on May 30, 1822.

The Nortons were destined to have a large family, and the first child was Joseph, born May 29, 1823. The next year on September 1, 1824, Melissa was born, and Margaret in 1826 on February 12th, Mary Charlotte arrived August 19, 1827, and John on May 13, 1829.

These first five children were all born in Herkimer and about this time Burroughs gave up tanning and leased his brother-in-law's dairy farm in Otsego County, New York, about twenty miles south of Herkimer. The principle work on the farm was cheese making, and here Helen was born on September 9, 1830, and George on November 29, 1831. It was here that the first tragedy occurred, when Mary Charlotte died on December 3, 1831, at the age of four.

William was born July 13, 1833, and Henry on December 1, 1834. About this time another brother-in-law offered Burroughs his ranch near



Springville, Erie County, New York. The family moved there and continued to make cheese.

Burroughs Jr. was probably born there on the 5th of September, 1836, but for some reason the family moved back to Otsego County and located at Exeter, where Jacob was born on January 25, 1838, and Mary Catherine was born on February 7, 1840. The following April, 1840, Burroughs, Jr. died at the age of four. After James was born on July 16, 1841 the family bought a farm near Springville, Erie County, New York and the whole family moved there in 1842.

Here the family was busy with births, deaths and marriages. Rocelia was born December 10, 1843, and William died at the age of thirteen on February 27, 1846. About this time, Melissa married Oliver T. Graves and moved to Kewanee, Ill. to live.

Back in Springville, Alphous was born on August 4, 1846, and Margaret married Stillman Bailey and continued to live in Springville. Adelbert was born on May 9, 1849, and that year Helen was married to Stephen Hooker.

Joseph, the eldest son, left for Wisconsin in 1848, and stayed with his Uncle Joel Norton in Waupun where he learned the trade of Cabinet Maker. In 1850 he came home and married Sophrona Lowe on October 9th.

Joseph had many tales of the opportunities in the West and convinced his father that there was plenty of land to be had for the taking, and now that the children were old enough to take up land, the decision was made to go West.

This was but an indication of the adventurous spirit of the early Americans. Here was a family with a farm in Springville, Erie County, New York, and responsible for nine children, talking of selling out and loading everything into a wagon and starting for who could tell what.



He had trouble selling his farm and household belongings for all cash, so he accepted watches in lieu of cash, and he disposed of everything except one span of grey horses and a new farm wagon. It must have been a big one. There probably were saddle horses for the men and boys.

When they were ready to start in 1850, the family had been reduced by the deaths of Mary Charlotte, Burroughs, Jr. and William, and the marriages of Melissa, Margaret and Helen, but the thirteen of them made the trip. The father and mother Norton; Joseph who was twenty-seven and his wife; John, twenty-one; George, nineteen; Henry, sixteen; Jacob, twelve; Mary Catherine, ten; James, nine; Rcelia, seven; Alphous, four; and, Adelbert, three.

The family traveled by wagon, on horse back and on foot to Buffalo, New York, located on the shores of Lake Erie, where the team went aboard a boat. They sailed West across Lake Erie to the Detroit River; past Detroit and into Lake St. Clair and then on into Lake Huron, through the Straits of Mackinac to Lake Michigan, and on to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Uncle Joel Norton, Burroughs Nortons' youngest brother, was waiting for them with another team and took them all to his home in Waupun located in Fond Du Lac County, Wisconsin, about sixty-five miles northwest of Milwaukee. The trip required two days.

The family rented a house in Upper Waupun, and John was set up in the jewelry business in a stationery store run by a man named Tanner. His stock consisted of the watches his father had taken in exchange for the farm in New York.

That winter all the children went to school except John who was running the store, and Joseph who, with his father, was looking into the possibilities of homesteading. In the Spring of 1851, leaving John to run the jewelry store, the family went up into Marquette County, Wisconsin, on what



was called the Indian Land. The father filed a homestead on 160 acres, and Joseph on another 160 acres.

They all stayed at the Hubbard farm. The house consisted of a log cabin, two rooms and an attic. Everyone slept on the floor. The boys near the door so they could dress and get out early and give the girls a chance to get dressed.

Later Father Norton built a log shanty, one room with a slant roof. Everyone moved in except George and Joseph and his wife who stayed on at the Hubbard's until they could build houses of their own.

Shortly thereafter a larger house was built and the shanty served as a barn. The horses were sold and two yokes of oxen purchased. It was necessary to go to Packwaukee for mail and a Doctor. -- Westfield at that time consisted of one log house and a saw mill run by Jim and Bob Cochran, where a few things could be purchased in addition to lumber, such as brown sugar, salt, coffee, tea and one bolt of calico.

The next summer, on July 5, 1852, Henry died at the age of eighteen, and Alphus on August 25, 1852, at the age of six.

John had sold out the jewelry store at Waupun and had gone East to Ellicottville, New York, where he married Amelia Brooks.

George left the farm and went back to Waupun where he got a job as a carpenter. In 1856 George married Abbie Sawyer, and moved to Westfield, Wisconsin, which was a town near the Indian Land, and the family left the Indian Land and moved into Westfield.

Burroughs, Sr. took over the hotel in Westfield and became Postmaster, and George was his deputy.



John returned with his wife and opened a jewelry store in Westfield.

By this time, the family had living with them, Jacob, Mary, James, Rcelia and Adelbert.

In 1858 Oliver Graves who had married Melissa, was operating a farm near Kewance, Ill., and living nearby was a family by the name of Ayer consisting of two boys and three girls. The children had all been born in Cambridge, Mass., except Lucy who was born in Lexington, Mass. The family had moved to Weathersfield, Ill. in 1856, and the next year their mother who was Martha M. Blood-Ayer died on September 1, 1857 at the age of forty-four. Weathersfield was a small town a few miles from Kewance, and the reason for the interest at this time is because they all became relatives of the Hutchinson clan when Mary Catherine Norton married Charles Alvin Ayer, but that comes later in this story.

The oldest Ayer boy was Leonard Barnard, and I knew him as Uncle Barnard. The second son was Grandfather Ayer. The eldest girl was Harriet, who married James E. Boorman. Then came Aunt Lucy, who married John Hutchins, and Aunt Julia who married Allen Palmer.

Up in Westfield, Wisconsin, Jacob (whom I later know as Uncle Jake when he paid us a visit in Napa) was getting tired of the farm. He was just twenty, and he came down to go to work for Aunt Melissa Graves at Kewance. While there, he became acquainted with the Ayer family and took up with Barnard who was then twenty-three years old.

California and Gold was in the air, and the boys felt the urge and they were off for California. At Council Bluffs they met up with a party headed by Noah Brooks who was bound for California. They joined forces and made the trip overland to California. The story of their trip



was written by Noah Brooks, and is entitled, "The Boy Emigrants". In the preface to the book, which is dated November, 1876, the author has this to say:

"The scenery of the book is all taken from nature; many of the characters were real people; and almost all the incidents which here befall the Boy Emigrants came under my own observation, or under that of people whom I knew on the trail or in California."

Noah Brooks was Montague Perkins Morse in the story and the Boy Emigrants were as follows:

BARNARD was Leonard Barnard Ayer;  
ARTY was Jacob Norton;  
MONT was Noah Brooks;  
HI was a brother of Noah Brooks;  
TOM was Frank Upham; and,  
JOHNNIE was a cousin of Noah Brooks.

On February 23, 1936, we had a little gathering at my home at 2715 Regent Street in Berkeley for the purpose of having Mr. and Mrs. William Paden, the Superintendent of Schools in Alameda, meet Aunt Lucy Hutchins, the brother of Barnard Ayer and Irma Ayer Hutchinson, the niece of Jacob Norton, and hear all about the Boy Emigrants.

The Paden family had a very interesting hobby, that of following the old trails. They had followed Fremont throughout the State of California and after reading The Boy Emigrants decided to follow the Oregon Trail from Council Bluffs to California.

The story of their trip, which took many years, appears in a book published in 1943, written by Mrs. Irene D. Paden and entitled, "The Wake of the Prairie Schooner".



In 1859 Mary went down to Kewanee, Ill., to visit Aunt Melissa Graves and while there she made the acquaintance of the Ayer family - Harriet, Julia, Charles and Lucy. Since Barnard had gone to California with Jake, there was plenty to talk about and she and Charles seemed to be interested in each other, but Charles' mind was on California and adventure, so instead of marrying the young lady, he left for California. He was just one year older than Mary, having been born in West Cambridge, Mass. on August 14, 1839.

After Mary went back to Westfield, Wisconsin, the family moved out of town to the 160 acre farm.

In the summer of 1860, Mary taught school about ten miles from the farm. James was clerking in a store in Westfield, and George and Abbie moved from Westfield to Kewanee, Ill.

In November of 1860 Abraham Lincoln was elected President. War was in the air, and two days after Fort Sumter surrendered on April 13, 1861 President Lincoln issued his first call for 75,000 volunteers.

Jim was the first to enlist and went with the 16th Wisconsin Infantry. George came back from Kewanee and enlisted from Waupun in the 3rd Wisconsin Infantry.

Charles Ayer had met Barnard and Jake in Marysville, California, and when war broke out, Charles joined the Marysville Rifles, but since he wasn't called he decided to go East with Jake who wanted to enlist from Wisconsin. They came overland by horseback and may have taken a train at Omaha, but Grandma Ayer said they rode all the way back to Kewanee, arriving some time in 1862.

Jake enlisted in the Wisconsin Cavalry, and his Regiment was with General Grant when he took Richmond.



Charles A. Ayer married Mary Catherine Norton in Westfield, Wisconsin, on March 9, 1863, and went to Boston on their honeymoon to see the sights, and to visit Charles' aunts who were living around Cambridge, Mass.

From Boston, Grandfather and Grandmother Ayer went to New York and made plans to go to California. They left on a ship called the "Ocean Queen" and landed at Aspinwall, now called Colon, on the Caribbean or Atlantic side of Panama, crossed the Isthmus by train and arrived at Panama City on the Pacific side. They came from there to San Francisco on the vessel "Golden Age".

They arrived in San Francisco in the Spring of 1863 and stayed at the best hotel in Town which was the Russ House, located on Montgomery Street, extending the block from Bush to Pine. Although they didn't know it at the time, Sam Brannan made his headquarters at the Russ House and was at the height of his fame. His story was written by Reva Scott, entitled "Sam Brannan and the Golden Fleece".

At a later date Grandpa Ayer supplied dairy products to a Hotel run by Sam Brannan in Calistoga, and his daughter, Irma Ayer, married a nephew of Sam's by the name of Thomas Brannan Hutchinson, who was, of course, my father.

Charles and Mary took a river boat at San Francisco and went up the Sacramento River to Marysville. Charles' brother, Leonard Barnard Ayer, was living there, having arrived overland in 1858, with Jake and Noah Brooks. He was the Editor and Manager of the Marysville Appeal and was also serving as Registrar of the United States Land Office.

Charles went to work for Barnard on the paper, having charge of the paper routes sending out the dailies. At the time there were sixteen



stages leaving Marysville daily. Charles and Mary lived on Fourth Street near D, and it was here that Charles F. Ayer was born on December 11, 1863.

Back on the farm near Westfield, father and mother Norton were unable to get any help to run the farm - the boys had either married or left home, so the family left the farm and went down to Keweenaw. Mary's mother was taken very sick after arriving in Keweenaw, and they got word to Grandma Ayer in California that her mother was not expected to live, so Mary decided to go East to see her mother.

In the fall of 1864, Grandma Ayer left Marysville bound for New York, with Uncle Fred who was less than a year old.

Barnard heard that Senator Cluness, one of the big Californians of the period, was going to Washington at the time, and since Barnard knew the Senator he asked him to look after Mary and her young son. A Mary White was employed by Barnard to help Mary take care of Uncle Fred.

The services of the Senator were badly needed when Uncle Fred was reported to have passed out while the ship was still in the Pacific. In fact, the doctor on the ship pronounced him dead, and would have buried him at sea were it not for the fact that Grandma Ayer had a horror of burials at sea. Through the influence of Senator Cluness, it was agreed that the baby would be carried to where he could be buried on land. Fortunately, for everyone and Uncle Fred in particular, he came to life again before they were able to bury him.

The ship they were on named "The Moses Taylor" left San Francisco bound for a port in Nicaragua, I think it was called "San Juan Del Sur". From there, they went via Lake Nicaragua and the Rio San Juan to Graytown on the Atlantic side, where they boarded the "Golden Rule" for the trip to New York.



Grandma Ayer arrived in New York with Uncle Fred in the winter of 1864, and stayed at the Metropolitan Hotel. They had been twenty-two days enroute, and Lincoln had been re-elected while the trip was being made.

From New York, Grandma went to Kewanee where her father and mother were living with Melissa Graves.

Shortly after Grandma Ayer left California, her husband Charles decided to follow her and went East by way of Panama, taking thirty days. He arrived in New York in time to meet Noah Brooks in Washington, D. C., where they attended the last reception of President Lincoln on January 1, 1865, at the White House.

Noah Brooks was one of President Lincoln's Secretaries.

Charles came on to Kewanee and on February 11, 1865 their second child was born - Irma Gertrude Ayer Hutchinson, my mother. According to the records she was born at Weathersfield, Ill. Charles left for St. Louis, Mo. and bought nineteen government horses, hired a man and drove the horses up to Onarga, Ill.

Mary's mother, Margaret Weber Norton, died at Kewanee on March 4, 1865, and was buried in Kewanee, Ill.

The war was drawing to a close and General Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. Less than a week later, President Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth as he sat in his box at the Ford Theatre in Washington.

The boys began to come home. Joseph had enlisted in 1864 and had located George. They were with General Sherman on his march through Georgia to the Sea. Joseph had been in charge of the negroes, who did the cooking for General Sherman.



After his wife's death, Burroughs was restless and as soon as Jake came back from the war, he decided to go back to Westfield, Wisconsin. Joseph's family were still there, so he took Jake, Rcelia, Mary and her two children with him. After arriving he, Burroughs, decided to sell the farm and he, Jake and Rcelia went to Grand Rapids, Wisconsin, where John was operating a jewelry store.

In Grand Rapids, Burroughs took the money from the sale of the farm and set Jake up in the jewelry business by buying out John. Rcelia kept house for her father and Jake until she was married a few years later to Choslie Mosman. They eventually settled in St. Joseph, Mo., and had four children: Oliver, Ruth, Burroughs and Helen Mosman.

Mary and her two children, Fred and Irma, left Westfield and went to Barrington, Ill., and then on to Onargo, Ill., where Charles had built a small house on his forty acre farm. They raised corn, wheat and had some cattle and still had four of the government horses. The others were sold. Grandfather Ayer bought a corn sheller and a threshing machine, and rented his machines to the farmers each summer. They lived there about five years, but after the railroad was completed in '69, he decided to take the family back to California.

He put someone in charge of the ranch and left for California saying that he would try to locate a farm or ranch and when he did he would send for the family.

The Golden Spike was driven on May 10, 1869 at Promitory, Utah, marking the junction of the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroads, and the completion of the first trans-continental railroad.



It was not until February, 1870, that Grandma Ayer sent for them. They did not sell the farm for the future was uncertain. Grandma Ayer with Fred and Irma joined forces with Grandfather's sisters, Lucy Ayer and Julia Ayer-Palmer and her husband, Allen Richards Palmer whom she had married in Weathersfield, Ill. on November 36, 1868.

The party traveled from Council Bluffs to Omaha by sleds over the ice, where they were to get aboard the train. At that time, there was an emigrant train which had wooden seats without cushions, no births or dinner, but once or twice a week a special train carried both a dinner and Pullmans and it was on this special train that the Ayers came to California.

The trip was one to remember, not so much because of the Indians seen in Wyoming, but because Ole Bull, the world famous Norwegian violinist, was on his first trip west. He was a virtuoso of extraordinary talent and at the height of all success in 1870.

Uncle Fred remembers seeing antelope, but no buffalo, and Aunt Lucy enjoyed telling about two highlights that occurred on the trip. The passengers would ask Uncle Fred how old he was, and he would proudly say "I'm six", then quickly correct himself and say, "No, I ain't, I'm five", for he had been coached by Grandma Ayer to say five, because all children five or under could ride free, and they didn't have a ticket for him.

The other event happened toward the end of the journey. A very handsome gentleman got on the train somewhere in Nevada, and made up to Fred and Irma by giving them silver dollars. The children had been up early and had walked down to the end of the pullman car. The children told Aunt Lucy about it and she went to see this handsome stranger. He became very friendly and paid her all sorts of compliments and they had a lot of fun together before she found out he was her own brother,



Leonard Barnard Ayer, whom she had not seen since 1858, when he left for California as a Boy Emigrant. He had taken a train East to meet them part way. It was a very happy reunion.

At Roseville the party transferred to a train for Marysville. The wild flowers were beautiful.

Grandfather Ayer was waiting at the station in Marysville with Barnard's wife, Lizzie Reed Ayer, and their young daughter, Genevieve Ayer who was about two and one-half years old.

Genevieve later married Joseph M. Talbot and they had five children: Raegan, Elizabeth, Leonard, Drusilla and Sonoma.

Genevieve Talbot, (known as Aunt Veva), is living in Santa Rosa, California at 318 Doyle Park Drive.

Grandfather Ayer had located a dairy ranch near Calistoga in the Napa Valley and after visiting with Barnard for a spell he took his family to their new home.

It was only natural that he should be drawn to Calistoga, located at the northern end of the Napa Valley, for it was here that Sam Brannan had first dreamed of and later developed the Saratoga of the West, and in 1870 it was a very active place.

The Napa Valley is one of the many delightful valleys in California located about fifty miles northeast of San Francisco. The valley, located in Napa County, is thirty miles long, and the Napa River has its source near Mt. St. Helena at its northern end and empties into San Francisco Bay. The river is navigable as far as the City of Napa and in the early days river boats made regular trips between San Francisco and Napa.



Calistoga, about twenty-seven miles above Napa, is surrounded by mountains with Mt. St. Helena rising 4,343 feet above sea level - it is five miles to its base and ten miles to its top from Calistoga.

Many of the mountains of Napa Valley as well as Mt. St. Helena were volcanoes, as is proven by the existence of old craters, volcanic ashes and pumice stone. The petrified forest near Calistoga is another evidence that at one time volcanoes were once active in the valley.

Prior to 1859, Calistoga was a peaceful farming area known as "Aqua Caliente" but its possibilities were discovered by Sam Brannan. He envisioned a California Spa with natural springs and mud baths, a grand hotel and a race tract. He purchased 2,000 acres taking most of the northern part of the valley. He proceeded to pour money into his dream resort and by 1870 he had brought a railroad to Calistoga. He had a hotel called the "Mansion House" with all the help in livery. Oil paintings worth thousands of dollars were on the walls of the hotel, and a race tract was constructed north of the springs ground.

The hotel and pleasure grounds were located at the foot of a small hill called Mt. Lincoln in the center of about 100 acres which was called the springs ground.

On the summit of Mt. Lincoln was a reservoir holding 90,000 gallon. The water was brought from the Napa River by means of steam produced by the natural hot springs.

There were many natural hot springs on the grounds.

One spring had a Grotto constructed over it in the form of a Druidical Temple and was made of petrified wood brought from the petrified forest.



The grounds were laid off with walks and ornamented with choice selections of trees, shrubbery and flowers. There were twenty-five or more neat and comfortable cottages for guests and some were occupied by friends and relatives of Brannan.

Today if you were to drive to Calistoga you would still find the springs ground East of the railroad and South of Lincoln Avenue.

Mt. Lincoln is still a small hill and some of the cottages still remain, along with a century plant and some cactus, but the Grand Hotel is gone. It was destroyed by fire in 1881.

The dairy farm located by Grandfather Ayer was about a mile from the springs ground. There was a large spring of cool water on the property and the water was piped to the farm and dairy buildings.

The farm furnished fresh milk and cream for the travelers and guests who came to the Springs hotel owned by Brannan. The skimmed milk going to the pigs.

While the Ayers were living in Calistoga, Alex Badlam ran the hotel for Sam Brannan. The Badlams had a fine house on the springs ground not far from the hotel. Alex Badlam had married Sam's sister, Mary Ann Brannan, and they had three children, Alex Jr., Edgar and Maude.

About this time, Sam Chapman and his wife, Amanda Brannan Hutchinson Chapman, with her young son, Thomas Brannan Hutchinson by a former marriage, were operating a boarding house at the Silverado Mine on Mt. St. Helena. The mine was some distance from the mill where the ore was treated, and Uncle Fred became acquainted with Tom Hutchinson and they rode on the ore wagons from the mine to the mill and would watch the ore being crushed.



A good account of the early life in Calistoga and the story of Sam Brannan is told in the book by Reva Scott entitled "Sam Brannan".

Things looked so good on the dairy ranch that Grandfather Ayer went back east, sold the farm at Onargo, Ill. and brought his father-in-law Burroughs Norton back to California with him.

Under his direction a milk house was built; the water from the spring running through it.

The milking was all done by hand and Irma and Fred used to wash the milk pans.

The farm was near the hills and mountain lions were often seen. At one time, Great Grand-father Burroughs Norton chased one away with his cane.

The Norton relatives often came to visit and the bean pot was always on. Jake being unmarried was a frequent visitor.

Burroughs stayed in Calistoga for about two years and then went back to stay with George and Abbie Norton at Atlantic, Iowa. After several years, he went to live with Helen and Steven Hooker, and later lived with Cheslie and Ceil Mosman at St. Joseph, Mo., and it was there that he died on October 10, 1891.

At a later date, Grandfather Ayer became the station Agent at Calistoga and eventually moved into town, living in the house where I was born. Grandma Ayer never said the lot was a gift from Sam Brannan, but it came about in this way, so I'm told. Someone told Grandma Ayer that Sam Brannan was in town and was so drunk that he was giving away lots, and that she should go down and get one, and that is how she got the lot. The house was located on the southeast corner of Church and Laurel Streets.



In 1878 or 79 Grandfather Ayer left Calistoga and went to work for Southern Pacific Company in San Francisco.

Uncle Fred, Charles F. Ayer, worked on the farm in Calistoga, learned to ride, played with Tom Hutchinson and Will Beasley and went to school. When he was eleven years old, he went to live with his Aunt Lucy at Central House where he stayed until he was twenty-one. He then returned to Calistoga and began the study of law in the office of Thomas B. Hutchinson at Napa. He married Elizabeth Close in Brooklyn, New York, on August 25, 1897, and they have one daughter, Margaret, who married Harold Colvin. Margaret and Harold have two children, Elizabeth and Riley Colvin. Uncle Fred and Aunt Lizzie Ayer are now living at No. 1 Socum Street, New Rochelle, New York.

You remember that Aunt Lucy Ayer came West with Grandma Ayer and she stayed on with her brother, Barnard Ayer, in Marysville until she married John S. Hutchins on September 25, 1873. John Hutchins was a Canadian rancher and he took his bride to a ranch in Butte County, later called Central House. There he prospered and raised a family of two girls, Louise Hutchins who later married Charlie Short and had two children, Helen and Carol, and Hattie Hutchins who married Louis P. Singer and raised four children, John, Louis Jr., Lucy and Donald.

Irma Ayer and Grandma Ayer about this time went East and Irma went to school in the East while staying with her Aunt Melissa and Uncle Oliver Graves at Shell City, Mo. The Graves family at that time consisted of two sons, Charles who had married Velma Capp, and Dwight who had married Clara.

For a time Grandfather and Grandmother Ayer lived apart but in 1885 Grandfather became ill with bright's disease and Grandma joined him in San Francisco.



In August, 1885, she took him to Bernard Ayers ranch, located in the Antelope Valley near Maxwell, Colusa County, California. Grandfather Charles A. Ayer, died there on October 13, 1885. His body was brought back to San Francisco and he was buried in the Laurel Hill Cemetery. The funeral was under the auspices of the Oriental Lodge #45, I.O.O.F. of San Francisco.

After Grandfather's death, Grandma Ayer returned to Calistoga and Irma returned with her. The young set in Calistoga took her in and she became engaged to Tom Hutchinson.

In March, 1887, James Norton and his wife, Mary Cox-Norton, came to Calistoga because of James' health. He had married shortly after his return from war and had been in business in Chicago where he was a member of the Board of Trade. They had two children, Milton and Weber.

His quest for health was unsuccessful for he died at Grandma Ayer's home in Calistoga on October 16, 1887.

You will recall that I mentioned Amanda Brannan Hutchinson Chapman earlier and since she was to become my Grandmother on my father's side, I might just as well mention her here. Amanda Brannan was the daughter of Thomas Brannan and Mary Dunn-Brannan. She was born in Soco, Maine in 1834. Thomas Brannan, her father, was a brother of Sam Brannan.

Grandma Chapman would never talk about her early life and we know very little about it. However, I believe she married John M. Hutchinson in Maine sometime in 1865 and that they had a child born on the 13th day of June, 1868, and he probably was christened John M. Hutchinson, Jr. That thereafter and prior to 1871, she divorced Hutchinson, left for California and changed the name of her child to Thomas Brannan Hutchinson. Prior to 1875 she married Sam Chapman and on May 3, 1875, the



Chapman family were running a boarding house at the Silverado Mine on Mt. St. Helena, Napa County, California. Robert Louis Stevenson in his book, "The Silverado Squatters" refers to the bill he found at the mine showing that S. Chapman ran the boarding house and rendered a bill dated May 3, 1875 to John Stanley for \$27.75 for board.

I don't know what became of Sam Chapman but his wife and her son stayed on in Calistoga. It was logical for her to do so for her Uncle Sam Brannan was a leading figure in Calistoga at that time.

Tom Hutchinson, my father, opened up a store in Calistoga on Lincoln Avenue, called the Model Fruit Store and he and his mother lived in back of the store.

**1412826**

He studied law in his spare time and was very active in the affairs of the town.

He became Manager of the Local Opera House and organized an amateur theatrical group and gave plays in the Opera House, in which he played along with Fred and Irma Ayer. He also played the drum in the town band.

He had a horse and buggy and on Sundays it was his custom to take his mother for a ride in the forenoon and then to take Irma Ayer out in the afternoon. After Tom was admitted to the Bar, he and Irma were married in Calistoga on July 8, 1890. Uncle Fred Ayer came over to the wedding from Central House to act as best man.

Grandma Ayer was living in her home at Calistoga at this time and had been for several years. Her sister-in-law, Julia Ayer-Palmer had moved to Calistoga with her family. Her husband, Allen Palmer, drove a six-horse stage for "Bill" Spiers from Calistoga, over Mt. St. Helena to Lake County. They had four children, Cora, Allen Jr., Eleanor and Leslie.



Her other sister-in-law, Harriet Ayer, had married James E. Boorman in 1868 and they had two children, Barnard and Ada. Ada married James Jones and raised a family of five at La Porte, California. Ada Jones is now living in Berkeley at 2220 Ward Street.

Father and Mother moved to Napa, California where Father opened up his law office on the corner of Second and Main Streets.

They had four children and every time Mother was about to have a baby she went back to Calistoga where her mother, Grandma Ayer, was still living. Thomas Harold was born there on May 9, 1892, Frederic Clarence on July 18, 1894 and Wendell Ayer on November 11, 1896.

I think Grandma must have gone East in 1900 because Irma Katherine was born at home in Napa without Grandma's help on November 14, 1900.

In 1899 Father who had been very active in the Methodist Epworth League was sent East as a delegate from California to try to bring the Methodist Convention to San Francisco in 1900.

He took Mother, Harold, Wendell and myself with him. We went by way of New Orleans and met our first relative at St. Joe where the Chesley Mosman family lived.

Chesley was a very successful lawyer who had married Grandma Ayer's youngest sister, Rcelia Norton. We all met their four children, Oliver, Ruth, Burroughs and Helen.

We found Grandma Ayer waiting for us at St. Joe and she was having a wonderful time introducing her daughter and son-in-law to all the Nortons she could find.

From there we went to Kansas City, Mo. to visit Aunt Amolia Norton. Amelia Brooks, you will



remember, married John A. Norton. Their only son, Calvin B. Norton, was operating a large jewelry store in Kansas City. Cal had married Lou Cassol and they had three children, Edith, Imogene and Fannie.

In Chicago, we visited with Helen Norton Hooker and her family. She had married Stephen Hooker and they had five children, Alice, George, Harry, Edwin and Nell.

While there we also met James Norton's wife, Mary Cox-Norton, whom we all called Aunt May, and her two boys, Milton and Webor, James having died in 1887.

On the way home we joined up with more Nortons in Colorado where George's son, Robert Ricker Norton was living with his family.

George Norton married Abbie Sawyer and they had five children, Jennie, Lulu, Elizabeth, Edwin and Robert.

Robert R. Norton married Margaret Custer and they had three children, Barbara, Mary and Bob, and in 1946, Robert and Margaret Norton were living at 45 Arroyo Court, San Mateo, California and the children were all married and living in California.

In Denver, we met up with Aunt Molissa. She had married Oliver T. Graves and they had three children, Charles, Dwight and Elizabeth, who died very young.

Dwight's first wife had died and after her death he married Alla Duncan and they had three children, Charles, Cheslie and Bernice.

I became well acquainted with this branch of the Norton clan during the First World War, when Alla Graves, known to everyone as "Muzzy", opened her doors to the Navy.



I was a sailor at the time aboard the U. S. S. Oregon. This was in 1917 and 1918.

Beside "Muzzy", there was Chet and his wife Lillian and their daughter, Vivian Lee. Charlie and his wife Lottie and their daughter Bernice and and Bernice Glockner and her daughter Virginia Lee.

The girls are all married now and have families of their own, and Chet, Lillian and Lottie can be found any day at the Farmers Market in Los Angeles, where they are in business.

After visiting the Garden of the Gods in Colorado and swimming in the Great Salt Lake. Viewing the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City, the Hutchinsons came home.

Oh yes, I forgot to tell you that father was successful in bringing the Convention to San Francisco, so the trip was a huge success.

We had seen a lot of Nortons but we had missed a few.

Joseph, you remember, married Sophrona Lowe on October 9, 1850, and they had eight children, John, Chester, Alpheus, Elizabeth, Richard, Henry, Albert and Ray.

Joseph and his wife both died in 1873 of small pox.

Margaret Norton had married Stillman Bailey and I believe we met a daughter, Margaret, who later married a man named Gaylord, but I'm not sure.

Jake was not around at the time, but I later met him when he paid us a visit in Napa. Jake never married. He died in Washington D. C. in January, 1919, and was buried at Arlington Cemetery, Virginia, with military honors.



The reason why we didn't see any of Adelbert Norton's family was because they were living in California. He had married Lena Robinson and they had four children, Ralph, Bert, Mabel and Irma.

I never met Adelbert Norton nor the boys but I remember visiting Aunt Lena in San Francisco and meeting Mabel and Irma.

There was a room in our house at Napa that we always called Grandma Ayer's room, but she also had a room in San Francisco and as I have said she made a trip East each year to visit her relatives and this, of course, took most of the year.

Thomas B. Hutchinson, my father, was a very eloquent speaker and very active in the Methodist Church and the Republican Party. He died very suddenly on April 25, 1904, while we were all living at 110 Calistoga Avenue, Napa, California.

After father's death, Grandma Ayer spent more time with us, but I do not remember her being with us on April 18, 1906, the day of the earthquake and fire in San Francisco.

In 1908 Mother sold the home in Napa and moved the family to Berkeley. Both Grandma Ayer and Grandma Chapman came with us.

Grandma Ayer was very active in the Relief Corp of the G. A. R. which, of course, was the Grand Army of the Republic. I remember going to several encampments with her.

In 1915 Grandma Chapman died and was buried in Napa, and that was the year that the Panama-Pacific International Exposition was held in San Francisco.

Grandma Ayer had a season ticket and she spent a great deal of time at the fair.



Aunt Melissa Graves came to live with us in Berkeley in 1915 and it was there she died in September, 1916. She was buried in the Hutchinson family plot at Napa.

In May of 1921, Grandma Ayer went to Calistoga to visit her sister-in-law, Aunt Julia Ayer Palmer, and while she was getting ready to go out to dinner the thread of life was broken. Her passing came as a great shock because she had always been very active and had carried on to the very end. I often wonder if an unseen hand had been at work, for she had told me the story of her life a few weeks before her death.

- THE END -



In 1946, as this story is written, Charles Fred Ayer and Irma Ayer-Hutchinson, the children of Mary C. Norton-Ayer, are enjoying good health and the pleasure of their children, grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Charles Fred Ayer is living in New Rochelle, New York, with his wife, Elizabeth Close-Ayer, and has his office at 14 Wall Street, New York City, where he is still active as the legal counsel and President of Newmont Mining Company.

Newmont Mining Company was one of the companies organized by William Boyce Thompson. Charles Fred Ayer became Thompson's Attorney and the story of Thompson is well told in a book by Hermann Hagedorn, entitled "The Magnate". The book was published in 1935 by Reynal and Hitchcock and Uncle Fred is referred to many times in the book.

His daughter, Margaret Ayer-Colvin, lives in New York with her husband, Harold Colvin, and they have two children, Elizabeth and Riley.

Irma Ayer-Hutchinson, my mother, lives with her daughter, Kathryn Hutchinson-Smith at 159 Hillcrest Road, Berkeley, California.

Kathryn married Mortimer Smith and they have two children, Mortimer, Jr. and Marilyn.

Mortimer, Jr. (Tim) married Roberta (Bobbie) Harter, and they have a son born August 18, 1946, who was named Brannan Timothy Smith.

Thomas Harold Hutchinson married Dorothy Irwin, and they have no children. They live in Larchmont, New York, and Tom who has been very active in television has just written a book entitled "Here is Television - Your Window to The World", published by Hastings House, New York City, 18.



Wendell Ayer Hutchinson married Dorothea Barkley and they have three children: Jean, who is married to Foster Davis; Kathryn; and, Wendell, Jr.

Wendell is with the U. S. Veteran's Administration and lives in Berkeley, California.

Fred C. Hutchinson (that's me) married Dorothy Meyer. We have two boys, Fred and Tom. I am the City Attorney of Berkeley and in my spare time I jot down notes and comments on my relations.

I am now collecting data on the Geneology of the children of Burroughs Norton, Jr. I find that it is quite an undertaking and I may finish it some day. If you want your branch of the family included, kindly get in touch with me and I will tell you what I need.

Sincerely,

Fred C. Hutchinson  
2715 Regent Street  
Berkeley 5, California

1179











